



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Pool 9 Island, Wis.



Pool 9 Island site on the Mississippi River, Wisconsin.

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the Pool 9 Island site is located in the lower lake-like reach of pool 9 on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Erosion of islands in the lower reach of pool 9 resulted in the loss of over 95-percent of their landmass in the last 50 years because of wave action. Loss of these islands permitted suspended sediment from the navigation channel and shallow backwater areas of Lake Winneshiek to routinely enter the project area. Wave action uproots aquatic vegetation and resuspends the sediment in the shallow backwater area, resulting in loss of aquatic plant growth. The project involved the construction of a C-shaped rockfill island complex with a 5-foot top width at one foot above the average pool elevation. The island complex parallels the main channel for 3,000 feet and extends into the backwater about 1,600 feet at the upper end and 1,900 feet at the lower end. Channels were dredged along the island alignment for construction access. This material was used as topsoil for ash piles at an electric power plant. The island complex eliminates direct sediment-laden flows through 140 acres of backwater during normal flow conditions and improves water clarity for the growth of aquatic plants in 180 acres of the backwater. Dredging in the backwater and the rock substrate of the island increased habitat diversity for fish.

Status

A construction contract was awarded in September 1994 and construction was completed in June 1995. The project has been transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance.

Authority

The Pool 9 Island Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP) and constructed in accordance with a Definite Project Report dated July 1993. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100 percent Federal because the project is located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal Cost	\$1,266,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Cost	\$1,266,000